

Werneth Music Curriculum KS3

		Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
Autumn 1	Content (Why)	Develop pupils' understanding of the Elements of Music , building on their KS2 knowledge. Pupils will explore how the key elements of music combine to create effective compositions and performances, applying this understanding through learning and performing well-known pop songs on the keyboard.	Explore the Blues and its historical development, cultural significance and influence on contemporary popular music. Pupils will develop their understanding of chords and harmony while building practical skills through multi-track recording and digital music production.	Explore Film Music and how composers use musical techniques to create atmosphere, emotion, suspense and narrative. Pupils will study recurring themes and develop keyboard and digital music-making skills to compose, record and edit a soundtrack for a film clip.
	Content (What)	This unit establishes a strong foundation in musical knowledge and vocabulary while developing pupils' practical musicianship. Understanding how musical elements work together enables pupils to listen critically, make informed performance choices and begin to understand how composers and performers create musical effects.	This unit connects the historical development of the Blues with modern music-making, helping pupils understand how musical styles evolve and influence one another. It develops both theoretical and practical musicianship while introducing pupils to the creative possibilities of digital recording and production.	This unit develops pupils' understanding of how music can communicate ideas and support visual storytelling. It combines listening and analytical skills with practical composition and digital production, allowing pupils to make purposeful musical decisions in response to a specific visual stimulus.
	Acquire (Knowledge)	• The elements of music are the building blocks of musical performance and composition, including melody, rhythm, harmony, dynamics, tempo, texture and timbre. • Musical elements work together to create meaning and effect, with pupils developing the vocabulary needed to describe and explain how music is constructed. • Keyboard performance develops practical musicianship, requiring pupils to develop coordination, rhythmic accuracy, pitch control, fluency and ensemble awareness.	• The Blues has had a significant influence on modern popular music, with pupils understanding its historical origins, key characteristics and development into later musical styles. • Chords and harmony provide the foundations for accompaniment, with pupils learning how chords relate to one another and support melody and musical structure. • Multi-track recording allows musical ideas to be layered and developed, requiring pupils to understand recording techniques, track organisation and the role of technology in music production.	• Film composers use musical elements to influence an audience's emotions and responses, including melody, harmony, dynamics, tempo, texture and instrumentation to create atmosphere and tension. • Recurring themes can represent characters, places or ideas, helping composers communicate narrative and create musical connections throughout a film. • Digital music technology supports the composition and production process, enabling musicians to create, record, edit and refine musical ideas alongside developing keyboard

				performance skills.
	Apply (Skills)	Identify and explain how musical elements combine within familiar pop songs, then apply this knowledge when learning and performing repertoire on the keyboard. Develop increasing accuracy, fluency and musical expression while making purposeful performance choices.	Identify and perform key characteristics of the Blues, use appropriate chords to create musical accompaniments and apply digital recording techniques to produce a multi-track performance. Combine historical and theoretical knowledge with practical music-making to create and refine a recorded outcome.	Analyse how composers use musical techniques to support narrative and emotion, then apply these techniques when composing a soundtrack for a film clip. Use keyboard skills and digital music technology to create, record, edit and refine an effective soundtrack that responds purposefully to the visual stimulus.
Autumn 2	Content (Why)	Explore Great Composers through a journey across different periods of musical history, studying influential composers and their significant works. Pupils will develop their keyboard skills by learning to perform Beethoven's <i>Für Elise</i> , focusing on musical patterns, coordination and performance technique.	Explore the structure and construction of modern 4 Chord Songs , developing pupils' understanding of how simple chord patterns can be used to create effective popular music. Pupils will develop keyboard skills by progressing from block chords to more fluent and flowing accompaniment patterns.	Explore the history and development of Rap music , tracing its evolution over approximately 50 years and examining influential landmark tracks and the genre's impact on society. Pupils will develop creative lyric-writing skills before composing a backing track and recording vocals to produce an original rap song.
	Content (What)	This unit develops pupils' understanding of how music has evolved over time and how influential composers have shaped the musical world. Studying repertoire in context develops listening and analytical skills, while performing <i>Für Elise</i> provides a practical application of musical notation, technique and expression.	This unit demonstrates how musical theory is applied in contemporary songwriting, helping pupils recognise the patterns and structures behind familiar popular music. It develops harmonic understanding, keyboard technique and confidence while encouraging pupils to make connections between musical theory and real-world music.	This unit develops pupils' understanding of how music can reflect and influence society while giving them opportunities to create music using contemporary techniques. It combines musical knowledge, creative writing and digital production, enabling pupils to move from musical ideas to a complete recorded outcome.
	Acquire (Knowledge)	Musical styles have developed and changed across different historical periods, with composers responding to	Chords provide the harmonic foundation of many popular songs, with pupils understanding how	Rap has developed through changing musical, social and cultural influences, with pupils exploring key

		the cultural, social and musical influences of their time. • Influential composers have shaped the development of Western music, with pupils developing knowledge of significant composers, their works and the characteristics of different musical periods. • Reading and performing keyboard music requires secure practical skills, including reading notation, recognising musical patterns, coordinating both hands and performing with accuracy and expression.	recurring chord progressions can create structure, mood and musical continuity. • Songwriters use repetition and musical structure purposefully, with pupils exploring how simple harmonic patterns can support melodies and create effective pop songs. • Effective keyboard performance requires developing technical control, including finger independence, chord changes, rhythmic accuracy and progression from block chords to more flowing patterns.	developments, influential artists and landmark tracks and considering the genre's impact on society. • Effective rap lyrics use language and rhythmic techniques purposefully, including rhyme, repetition, rhythm, wordplay and structure to communicate ideas and engage an audience. • Digital production combines musical layers into a complete track, with pupils learning how to create a backing track, record vocals and use recording technology to develop and refine a finished song.
	Apply (Skills)	Identify key characteristics and influences from different periods of music history and explain the contribution of significant composers. Apply notation-reading, coordination and keyboard techniques to learn and perform Beethoven's <i>Für Elise</i> with increasing accuracy, fluency and musical expression.	Identify and perform common four-chord progressions, applying knowledge of harmony and song structure to familiar popular music. Develop keyboard technique by performing chord patterns with increasing fluency, independence and rhythmic control, demonstrating how musical theory translates into practical performance.	Analyse the musical and social characteristics of rap across different periods, then use creative writing techniques to develop original lyrics. Compose and structure a suitable backing track, record vocals and combine musical elements using digital technology to produce and refine a complete original rap song.
Spring 1	Content (Why)	Explore Music Culture through listening to and performing music from a range of diverse cultural traditions. Pupils will investigate how different cultures use rhythm, melody and harmony, while developing more complex musical ideas and strengthening their practical performance skills.	Explore Remix through the role of a music producer, investigating how musical genres are defined by their characteristic sounds, rhythms and structures. Pupils will develop advanced digital audio skills to transform an existing track into a new style and produce an original remix.	Develop Personal Music Pathways through an individualised programme of musical development. Pupils will identify areas for personal growth and complete independent tasks focused on their chosen interests, such as instrumental performance, composition, songwriting or music production.
	Content (What)	This unit broadens pupils' musical understanding by exposing them to a wider range of musical	This unit develops pupils' understanding of genre and contemporary music production	This unit develops independence, confidence and self-discipline by allowing pupils to take

		traditions and perspectives. It develops cultural awareness alongside musicianship, enabling pupils to recognise how musical conventions differ across cultures while applying and extending their own musical skills.	while extending their digital skills. Pupils will learn how producers manipulate musical elements and technology to create new interpretations, developing creativity, critical listening and confidence with digital audio.	greater ownership of their musical development. Pupils will build on their existing strengths while identifying and addressing areas for improvement, preparing them for continued musical learning and creative opportunities beyond school.
	Acquire (Knowledge)	• Music reflects the cultures and traditions from which it develops, with pupils exploring how different communities use rhythm, melody, harmony and instrumentation in distinctive ways. • Musical traditions use different conventions and structures, enabling pupils to compare and explain similarities and differences between music from diverse cultures. • Developing musicianship requires increasing technical and musical control, including the ability to perform and create more complex rhythmic and melodic patterns.	• Musical genres are defined by distinctive conventions, with pupils identifying how rhythm, melody, harmony, instrumentation, texture and production techniques contribute to a genre's identity. • Digital audio techniques can transform musical material, including editing, looping, sampling, effects, layering and manipulation of tempo or other musical features. • Effective remixing requires purposeful creative decisions, balancing the characteristics of the original track with conventions of a new genre to create a coherent and engaging outcome.	• Effective musical development begins with identifying personal strengths and areas for improvement, enabling pupils to set realistic and purposeful individual goals. • Independent musicians require self-discipline and effective practice strategies, including planning, perseverance, reflection and responding constructively to feedback. • Music can be developed through different creative pathways, including performing, composing, songwriting and digital production, allowing pupils to explore and develop their individual interests and talents.
	Apply (Skills)	Listen to, analyse and perform music from a range of cultural traditions, identifying how musical elements are used in different contexts. Apply developing rhythmic, melodic and harmonic skills to create and perform increasingly complex musical ideas with accuracy, confidence and musical expression.	Analyse the characteristics of different musical genres and use digital audio techniques to transform an existing track into a contrasting style. Select and manipulate musical material creatively, applying appropriate production techniques to create, record and refine an original remix.	Set personal musical goals and independently plan and complete a programme of tasks designed to develop chosen skills. Apply appropriate practice, creative and production techniques to create or perform musical outcomes, regularly evaluating progress and adapting approaches to improve.
Spring 2	Content (Why)	Develop pupils' understanding of the Elements of Music , building on knowledge from KS2. Pupils	Explore the Blues , tracing its historical origins, development and influence on contemporary	Explore Film Music and how composers use musical techniques to create atmosphere,

		will explore how musical elements combine to create effective music and apply this knowledge through learning and performing familiar pop songs on the keyboard.	popular music. Pupils will develop their understanding of chords and harmony alongside practical skills in keyboard performance and multi-track digital recording.	emotion, suspense and narrative. Pupils will study recurring themes and develop keyboard and digital music-making skills to compose, record and edit a soundtrack for a film clip.
	Content (What)	This unit establishes core musical knowledge and vocabulary while developing practical musicianship. Pupils will understand how composers and performers use musical elements to create different effects and will apply this knowledge through increasingly confident keyboard performance.	This unit connects the historical development of the Blues with modern music-making, helping pupils understand how musical styles evolve and influence later genres. It develops theoretical knowledge, practical musicianship and digital production skills.	This unit develops pupils' understanding of how music supports visual storytelling and influences an audience's emotional response. It combines musical analysis with composition and digital production, enabling pupils to make purposeful creative decisions in response to a visual stimulus.
	Acquire (Knowledge)	• The elements of music are the building blocks of musical composition and performance, including melody, rhythm, harmony, dynamics, tempo, texture and timbre. • Musical elements combine to create different effects, with pupils developing the vocabulary to identify, describe and explain how music is constructed. • Keyboard performance requires increasing technical control, including accurate pitch and rhythm, hand coordination, fluency and expressive performance.	• The Blues developed from specific historical and cultural contexts, with pupils understanding its origins, key musical characteristics and influence on later popular music. • Chords and harmony provide the foundations for musical accompaniment, with pupils learning how chords relate to one another and support melody and structure. • Multi-track recording enables musicians to layer and develop musical ideas, requiring pupils to understand recording, track organisation and basic digital production techniques.	• Film composers use musical elements to create atmosphere and influence emotions, including melody, harmony, dynamics, tempo, texture and instrumentation. • Recurring themes can communicate characters, places and ideas, helping composers establish identity, reinforce narrative and create musical connections throughout a film. • Digital music technology supports the composition and production process, enabling pupils to compose, record, edit and refine musical ideas alongside developing keyboard skills.
	Apply (Skills)	Identify and explain how musical elements are used within familiar pop songs, then apply this knowledge when learning and performing repertoire on the keyboard. Develop increasing accuracy, fluency and musical expression while	Identify and perform key characteristics of the Blues, use appropriate chord progressions to create musical accompaniments and apply digital recording techniques to produce a multi-track performance. Combine historical	Analyse how composers use musical techniques to support narrative and emotion, then apply these techniques when composing a soundtrack for a film clip. Use keyboard skills

		making purposeful performance choices.	and theoretical knowledge with practical music-making to create and refine a recorded outcome.	and digital music technology to compose, record, edit and refine an effective soundtrack that responds purposefully to the visual stimulus.
Summer 1	Content (Why)	Explore Great Composers through different periods of musical history, studying influential composers and their significant works. Pupils will develop their keyboard skills by learning and performing Beethoven's <i>Für Elise</i> , focusing on notation, musical patterns, coordination and performance technique.	Explore the construction of modern 4 Chord Songs , developing pupils' understanding of how recurring chord progressions are used to create effective popular music. Pupils will develop keyboard technique by progressing from block chords to more fluent and flowing accompaniment patterns.	Explore the history and development of Rap music , tracing its evolution over approximately 50 years and examining influential landmark tracks and the genre's impact on society. Pupils will develop creative lyric-writing skills before composing a backing track and recording vocals to produce an original rap song.
	Content (What)	This unit develops pupils' understanding of how music has evolved and how significant composers have shaped musical styles and traditions. Studying repertoire in its historical context strengthens listening and analytical skills, while performing <i>Für Elise</i> provides a practical application of notation, technique and musical expression.	This unit demonstrates how musical theory is applied in contemporary songwriting, helping pupils recognise the harmonic patterns and structures behind familiar popular music. It develops harmonic understanding, keyboard technique, coordination and confidence while connecting theory directly to practical music-making.	This unit develops pupils' understanding of how music can reflect and influence society while providing opportunities for contemporary music creation. It combines musical knowledge, creative writing and digital production, enabling pupils to develop an original musical idea into a complete recorded outcome.
	Acquire (Knowledge)	• Musical styles develop in response to changing historical and cultural contexts, with pupils exploring the characteristics and influences of different musical periods. • Influential composers have shaped the development of Western music, with pupils developing knowledge of significant composers, their works and their contribution to musical history. • Effective keyboard performance requires technical and musical control, including reading notation, recognising	• Chords provide the harmonic foundation of many popular songs, with pupils understanding how chord progressions support melody, mood and musical structure. • Repetition and musical structure are used purposefully in songwriting, with pupils exploring how simple harmonic patterns can create effective and memorable pop songs. • Effective keyboard performance requires increasing technical control, including finger independence,	• Rap has evolved through changing musical, social and cultural influences, with pupils exploring key developments, influential artists and landmark tracks and considering the genre's impact on society. • Effective rap lyrics use language and rhythmic techniques purposefully, including rhyme, repetition, rhythm, wordplay and structure to communicate ideas and engage an audience. • Digital music production combines

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		musical patterns, coordinating both hands and performing with accuracy and expression.	accurate chord changes, rhythmic control and fluent accompaniment patterns.	different musical elements , with pupils learning how to create a backing track, record vocals and use technology to develop and refine a finished song.
	Apply (Skills)	Identify key characteristics of different musical periods and explain the contribution of significant composers. Apply notation-reading, coordination and keyboard techniques to learn and perform Beethoven's <i>Für Elise</i> with increasing accuracy, fluency and musical expression.	Identify and perform common four-chord progressions, applying knowledge of harmony and song structure to familiar popular music. Develop keyboard technique by performing chord patterns with increasing fluency, independence and rhythmic accuracy, demonstrating how musical theory can be applied to create and perform contemporary music.	Analyse the development and characteristics of rap music before applying creative writing techniques to develop original lyrics. Compose and structure a suitable backing track, record vocals and combine musical elements using digital technology to produce and refine a complete original rap song.
Summer 2	Content (Why)	Explore Remix through the role of a music producer, investigating how different musical genres are defined by their distinctive sounds, rhythms and structures. Pupils will develop digital audio skills to transform an existing track into a different style and create an original remix.	Explore Music & Media through the role of a media music producer. Pupils will investigate how music is used in advertising and screen media to influence audiences, create atmosphere and communicate ideas, while developing advanced audio mixing and editing skills using a Digital Audio Workstation (DAW).	Develop Personal Music Pathways through an individualised programme of musical development. Pupils will identify areas for personal growth and complete independent tasks focused on their chosen interests, such as instrumental performance, composition, songwriting or music production.
	Content (What)	This unit develops pupils' understanding of musical genre and contemporary music production while extending their digital skills. Pupils will learn how producers manipulate musical elements and technology to create new interpretations, developing creativity, critical listening and confidence with digital audio.	This unit develops pupils' understanding of the relationship between music, media and audience response. It builds digital production skills while enabling pupils to make purposeful decisions about how sound can communicate emotion, reinforce a message and influence how media is experienced.	This unit develops independence, confidence and self-discipline by giving pupils greater ownership of their musical development. Pupils will build on their existing strengths, address areas for improvement and develop the skills needed to pursue continued musical learning and creative opportunities.
	Acquire (Knowledge)	Musical genres are defined by distinctive conventions, including rhythm, melody, harmony,	Music can influence how audiences respond to media, with composers and producers using musical elements	Effective musical development begins with identifying strengths and areas for improvement, enabling pupils to

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		instrumentation, texture and production techniques. • Digital audio techniques can transform musical material, including editing, looping, sampling, effects, layering and manipulation of tempo and other musical features. • Effective remixing requires purposeful creative decisions, combining characteristics of an original track with the conventions of a new genre to create a coherent and engaging outcome.	to create mood, atmosphere, tension and emotional impact. • Music is used purposefully in advertising and screen media, supporting branding, storytelling and communication by reinforcing messages and shaping audience perceptions. • Digital Audio Workstations provide professional tools for music production, enabling pupils to record, edit, mix and manipulate audio using increasingly sophisticated production techniques.	set realistic, purposeful and measurable individual goals. • Independent musicians require self-discipline and effective practice strategies, including planning, perseverance, reflection and responding constructively to feedback. • Music can be developed through a range of creative pathways, including performing, composing, songwriting and digital production, allowing pupils to develop individual interests and talents.
	Apply (Skills)	Analyse the characteristics of different musical genres and use digital audio techniques to transform an existing track into a contrasting style. Select and manipulate musical material creatively, applying appropriate production techniques to create, record and refine an original remix.	Analyse how music is used to influence audiences in advertising and screen media, then apply this knowledge when creating and editing audio. Use a DAW to independently mix, manipulate and refine sound, making purposeful production choices to create an appropriate atmosphere and communicate a specific message.	Set personal musical goals and independently plan and complete a programme of tasks designed to develop chosen skills. Apply appropriate practice, creative and production techniques to create or perform musical outcomes, regularly evaluating progress and adapting approaches to improve.